



AUG 7 2006

United States
Department of
Agriculture

VETERINARY SERVICES MEMORANDUM NO. 552.11

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

SUBJECT: Tuberculin Storage and Handling

Veterinary Services

TO: VS Management Team (VSMT)
Directors, VS

Washington, DC
20250

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to outline Agency policy on the storage and handling of tuberculin.

II. CANCELLATION

VS Memorandum No. 552.11, dated July 16, 2004, is hereby cancelled.

III. GENERAL

The tuberculin provided for the tuberculosis eradication program is scientifically produced according to very stringent criteria. To maintain the high quality of this diagnostic agent it is important that it be properly stored and handled to maintain its potency and to ensure that it will provide consistently accurate testing.

IV. STORAGE AND HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Tuberculins are to be stored at temperatures between 35 and 45 degrees Fahrenheit (2 and 7 degrees Centigrade). Do not allow tuberculins to freeze as the tuberculous protein will precipitate and may cause variations in the response. Tuberculin that has been frozen should not be used. Tuberculins are relatively stable at room temperature.
2. Tuberculins are to be stored in a dark location. Tuberculous proteins are denatured if exposed to light; consequently, large quantities are dispensed in amber colored glass containers. Do not store tuberculin in clear syringes unless they are placed in a dark container.

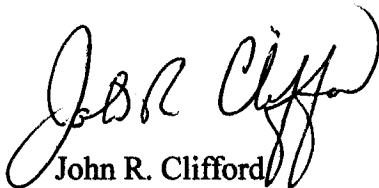


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3. Caudal Fold Tuberculin (10 cc amber colored glass containers) is to be discarded 2 weeks after initial usage. Comparative Cervical Paired Tuberculins (1 cc labeled glass containers) are to be discarded after use at the end of each day. Tuberculous protein denatures slowly in air. Tuberculin stored in a partially filled container for 4 weeks can be completely oxidized.
4. Comparative Cervical Tuberculins are to be used as matching pairs only. Check serial numbers on the labels for verification. These tuberculins are biologically balanced in Guinea Pigs.
5. Do not store tuberculins in dose amounts for longer than 12 hours. Tuberculous protein will adsorb to the inner surfaces of containers. This is minimized by the addition of an anti-adsorption agent by the manufacturer. There is a direct relationship between the percentage of tuberculous protein adsorbed and the surface to volume ratio. Small amounts of tuberculin stored in containers with a large surface area can lose almost 100 percent of their potency.



John R. Clifford
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Veterinary Services